



P.O. Box 130, Kinzers, PA 17535
PHONE 717/768-5530 FAX 717/768-7176
www.pequeavalley.org

Dear PVHS & PVIS Families:

At Pequea Valley School District, we are committed to creating and sustaining a comprehensive, coordinated effort to improve the overall safety and well-being of our students, educators, and administrators.

To do this, we believe this must encompass community-wide programs and initiatives involving parents, facilitators, administrators, local law enforcement, mental health and wellness professionals, and elected officials to take meaningful action to protect our learners.

Today, we are happy to announce the launch of the "Safe2Say Something" (S2SS) anonymous reporting system (SS-ARS). This program, which is mandated under PA state law / Act 44, and teaches learners, facilitators, and administrators how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially on social media, of individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and *say something* to a trusted adult OR use its anonymous reporting system. Specifically, the program educates participants to:

- Recognize the signs and signals of at-risk behaviors, especially on social media
- Take every sign and signal seriously; act quickly to get help by talking to a trusted adult OR
- Report it anonymously through the S2SS Office of the Attorney General 24/7 Crisis Center, mobile app, or website
- Respond to and manage the submitted tip via a school-based multi-disciplinary educator and administrator team
- Sustain the curriculum and awareness via student clubs, in-school activities, and call-to-action weeks

Our learners often are aware of the problems their peers are facing, so we must empower them to know the danger signs and give them the tools to help each other with the assistance of trained and caring adults. As you know, most conversations are taking place on social media; therefore, it is critical that we teach our learners to be looking out for one another as these digital conversations are taking place. S2SS teaches them what to look for in text, video, and photos while empowering them to act quickly to help a fellow student.

The SS-ARS program is being provided through Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a nation-wide non-profit organization. SHP's programs are in 50 states - with 10,000 plus schools and over 5.5 million learners and adults trained. They have a track record, reputation, and knowledge of how to work effectively with kids, parents, and facilitators to improve school safety and culture. The program is age-appropriate and research-based. They also have funding to provide and sustain the program at no cost to our school (and all schools statewide).

We anticipate that S2SS will help stop school shootings, suicides, and gun threats; it will help reduce bullying and cyberbullying; help intervene upon cutting, drug use, racial conflicts, and other violent and victimization acts.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email us directly at 717-768-5530.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Dr. Erik Orndorff, written in a cursive style.

Dr. Erik Orndorff
Superintendent

A blue ink signature of Cathy Koenig, written in a cursive style.

Cathy Koenig
Director of Student Service/Safety Coordinator